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LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

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THE LOUISIANA ECONOMIC SITUATION

Louisiana's nonagricultural employment estimated at 1,655,400 displayed an increase from the previous month as well as from the previous year. The month-ago revised level was 1,645,800 and the year-ago level was 1,636,500.

For March, goods producing employment was estimated at 330,500, an increase of 2,900 from last month and 6,600 from last year. Mining employment took a loss in oil and gas extraction due to less activity. Construction payrolls continued to move upward with all segments contributing, especially heavy construction. Manufacturing employment was up due to increases in both durable and nondurable goods.

Service producing employment increased to 1,324,900 for March, an increase of 6,700 from February and 12,300 from March one year ago. The state's ports resumed more business activity boosting the transportation, communications, and public utilities segment. Growth in the eating and drinking segment accounted for most of the gain in trade employment. Finance, insurance, and real estate edged up slightly with a small increase centered in the insurance sector. The services industry grew due to rises in employment in each segment with the exclusion of personal, membership organizations and legal services. State and local education payrolls were higher as seasonal trends continued.

The 136,000 production workers in manufacturing in Louisiana had average weekly earnings of $557.68 for March. This was an increase of $7.48 from the February revised figure and $31.00 from last year. Average hourly earnings decreased by seven cents from last month's level of $13.10, but increased $0.49 over last year. Average weekly hours were 42.8, an increase of 0.8 hours from both last month's and last year's figures.

The March preliminary unemployment rate for Louisiana was 8.1 percent, a slight increase from the February revised rate of 7.8 percent. The national unemployment rate for March remained the same as the February rate of 6.5 percent. Total unemployment increased to 153,600. The state's civilian labor force decreased to 1,891,100 with a decrease in total employment to 1,737,500.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1994*	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1993**	Net Change From Feb. 1994	Net Change From Mar. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,655.4	1,645.8	1,636.5	+ 9.6	+18.9
GOODS PRODUCING	330.5	327.6	323.9	+ 2.9	+ 6.6
MINING	45.1	45.6	45.0	- 0.5	+ 0.1
Oil and Gas Extraction	43.3	43.8	43.3	- 0.5	0
Nonmetallic Minerals	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	99.8	97.1	94.6	+ 2.7	+ 5.2
General Contractors	16.2	15.9	15.1	+ 0.3	+ 1.1
Heavy Construction, ex. Bldg.	40.5	38.8	38.8	+ 1.7	+ 1.7
Special Trade Contractors	43.1	42.4	40.7	+ 0.7	+ 2.4
MANUFACTURING	185.6	184.9	184.3	+ 0.7	+ 1.3
Durable Goods	79.5	78.9	78.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.6
Lumber and Wood Products	12.9	12.9	12.8	0	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	5.9	5.9	5.8	0	+ 0.1
Primary Metal Industries	3.0	3.0	2.8	0	+ 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	13.7	13.6	13.8	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Machinery, Except Electrical	12.9	12.6	12.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	5.5	5.5	5.4	0	+ 0.1
Transportation Equipment	21.4	21.2	21.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Other Durable Goods (1)	4.2	4.2	4.2	0	0
Nondurable Goods	106.1	106.0	105.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
Food & Kindred Products	20.6	20.6	19.8	0	+ 0.8
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	11.5	11.5	11.4	0	+ 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	12.0	12.0	12.0	0	0
Printing & Publishing	9.4	9.4	9.4	0	0
Chemicals & Allied Products	30.5	30.5	30.5	0	0
Inorganic Chemicals	7.1	7.1	7.1	0	0
Organic Chemicals	10.4	10.4	10.7	0	- 0.3
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.5	12.3	12.6	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Petroleum Refining	11.4	11.2	11.5	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	9.6	9.7	9.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	1,324.9	1,318.2	1,312.6	+ 6.7	+12.3
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	106.1	105.6	104.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.4
Railroad Transportation	4.8	4.8	5.0	0	- 0.2
Transportation, ex. Railroads	63.6	63.1	62.1	+ 0.5	+ 1.5
Water Transportation	22.5	22.2	22.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.1
Communications & Public Util.	37.7	37.7	37.6	0	+ 0.1
Comm., ex. US Postal Service	15.8	15.8	15.8	0	0
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Serv.	21.9	21.9	21.8	0	+ 0.1

LOUISIANA - CONTINUED

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT

(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1994*	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1993**	Net Change From Feb. 1994	Net Change From Mar. 1993
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	382.0	378.7	378.3	+ 3.3	+ 3.7
Wholesale Trade	85.1	84.9	84.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	46.6	46.4	46.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	38.5	38.5	38.4	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	296.9	293.8	293.8	+ 3.1	+ 3.1
Bldg. Mat'ls. & Garden Supplies	11.5	11.1	10.9	+ 0.4	+ 0.6
General Merchandise	39.9	39.6	38.6	+ 0.3	+ 1.3
Food Stores	58.8	58.7	58.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	33.6	33.3	32.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.9
Apparel and Accessory	15.1	15.2	15.5	- 0.1	- 0.4
Furniture and Equipment	10.4	10.4	10.5	0	- 0.1
Eating and Drinking Places	97.6	95.6	96.5	+ 2.0	+ 1.1
Other Retail Trade	30.0	29.9	30.4	+ 0.1	- 0.4
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	77.8	77.6	77.5	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Banking	27.8	27.8	27.5	0	+ 0.3
Insurance	26.7	26.6	26.9	+ 0.1	- 0.2
SERVICES	416.9	414.9	408.9	+ 2.0	+ 8.0
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	21.9	21.9	21.7	0	+ 0.2
Personal Services	16.0	16.2	15.6	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Business Services	67.5	67.1	65.6	+ 0.4	+ 1.9
Auto Repair, Services & Garages	12.1	12.0	11.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Miscellaneous Repair Services	6.6	6.5	6.6	+ 0.1	0
Amusement & Recreation Services	14.4	14.3	12.8	+ 0.1	+ 1.6
Health Services	142.3	141.9	138.8	+ 0.4	+ 3.5
Hospitals	60.2	60.1	59.1	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Legal Services	16.2	16.2	16.2	0	0
Educational Services	28.1	27.5	27.9	+ 0.6	+ 0.2
Social Services	25.9	25.7	25.9	+ 0.2	0
Membership Organizations	26.4	26.6	26.4	- 0.2	0
Eng., Acct. and Related Services	27.7	27.4	27.8	+ 0.3	- 0.1
Miscellaneous Services	6.9	6.8	6.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	342.1	341.4	343.2	+ 0.7	- 1.1
Federal	36.8	36.8	36.8	0	0
State and Local	305.3	304.6	306.4	+ 0.7	- 1.1
State	107.4	107.0	107.9	+ 0.4	- 0.5
Local	197.9	197.6	198.5	+ 0.3	- 0.6

*** Preliminary** ****Revised**

(1) Includes furniture and fixtures, professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries.

(2) Includes leather, rubber and textile products.

All estimates of nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication are prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and include all full-time and part-time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Mar. '94*	Feb. '94**	Mar. '93**	Mar. '94*	Feb. '94**	Mar. '93**	Mar. '94*	Feb. '94**	Mar. '93**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$557.68	$550.20	$526.68	42.8	42.0	42.0	$13.03	$13.10	$12.54
Durable Goods	510.42	495.98	464.52	43.7	42.5	42.0	11.68	11.67	11.06
Lumber & Wood Products	405.83	387.99	378.63	42.9	41.9	42.4	9.46	9.26	8.93
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	447.20	426.30	458.30	41.6	40.6	41.4	10.75	10.50	11.07
Fabricated Metal Products	444.51	445.20	430.68	42.7	42.4	42.1	10.41	10.50	10.23
Machinery, ex. Electrical	527.33	505.47	482.66	44.5	43.5	44.2	11.85	11.62	10.92
Electric & Electronic Equip.	851.45	866.76	707.69	47.7	46.5	42.2	17.85	18.64	16.77
Transportation Equipment	579.54	554.70	503.01	45.1	43.1	40.5	12.85	12.87	12.42
Nondurable Goods	597.40	594.88	577.50	42.1	41.6	42.0	14.19	14.30	13.75
Food & Kindred Products	330.81	327.37	307.38	38.2	38.2	36.9	8.66	8.57	8.33
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	232.63	223.45	225.45	35.3	33.5	34.9	6.59	6.67	6.46
Paper & Allied Products	667.06	656.37	625.65	44.5	43.7	43.0	14.99	15.02	14.55
Printing & Publishing	476.74	445.24	463.72	39.4	37.7	39.6	12.10	11.81	11.71
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	877.68	894.52	858.16	46.0	46.3	47.1	19.08	19.32	18.22
Petroleum & Coal Products	993.77	997.11	930.86	47.3	48.1	47.3	21.01	20.73	19.68
Petroleum Refining	1,023.01	1,031.69	956.53	47.1	48.3	47.4	21.72	21.36	20.18
MINING	645.54	651.20	585.57	48.5	49.9	46.4	13.31	13.05	12.62
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	615.03	606.39	558.56	41.5	41.0	40.3	14.82	14.79	13.86
BANKING	331.79	338.92	309.10	36.5	36.6	35.9	9.09	9.26	8.61

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **136,000** full-time and part-time workers in manufacturing and **81,500** nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Mar. '94*	Feb. '94**	Mar. '93**	Mar. '94*	Feb. '94**	Mar. '93**	Mar. '94*	Feb. '94**	Mar. '93**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$638.57	$685.03	$620.92	42.6	43.8	43.3	$14.99	$15.64	$14.34
Petro-Chemicals	873.18	968.71	842.62	46.2	48.9	46.4	18.90	19.81	18.16

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **14,700** production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$582.12	$567.06	$540.96	44.0	42.7	42.0	$13.23	$13.28	$12.88
Durable Goods	488.63	472.34	424.39	44.3	42.4	39.7	11.03	11.14	10.69
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	455.10	478.24	460.93	41.6	44.2	42.6	10.94	10.82	10.82
Fabricated Metal Products	439.53	407.51	434.35	41.9	38.7	42.5	10.49	10.53	10.22
Ship & Boatbld'g. and Repair	450.11	434.30	377.74	43.7	41.8	37.4	10.30	10.39	10.10
Nondurable Goods	660.74	644.79	639.18	43.7	42.9	43.9	15.12	15.03	14.56
Food & Kindred Products	399.37	382.23	378.10	40.3	38.3	40.7	9.91	9.98	9.29
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	181.47	181.64	178.75	34.5	33.7	30.4	5.26	5.39	5.88
Printing & Publishing	520.56	490.59	475.17	43.2	43.3	42.2	12.05	11.33	11.26
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	899.50	885.75	938.37	46.8	45.4	50.1	19.22	19.51	18.73

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **34,300** production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$617.14	$598.33	$541.20	43.8	41.9	40.6	$14.09	$14.28	$13.33
Lumber and Wood Products	292.23	299.92	338.57	38.1	38.9	43.8	7.67	7.71	7.73
Food and Kindred Products	375.72	413.58	344.90	32.9	35.5	33.1	11.42	11.65	10.42
Printing and Publishing	414.61	339.51	407.23	39.6	35.7	40.2	10.47	9.51	10.13
Chemicals & Allied Products	630.67	595.02	637.56	45.8	42.9	41.4	13.77	13.87	15.40

(1)Data in the average earnings table are for approximately **15,700** production workers and are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY Mar., 1994 LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE	REVISED Feb., 1994 LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE	REVISED Mar., 1993 LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP.	RATE
LOUISIANA (SEAS. ADJ.)	1,891.1	1,737.5	153.6	8.1	1,925.0	1,775.7	149.3	7.8	1,889.5	1,747.4	142.1	7.5
LOUISIANA (UNADJUSTED)	1,880.1	1,733.4	146.7	7.8	1,897.3	1,745.2	152.1	8.0	1,877.9	1,742.9	135.0	7.2
METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	55.3	51.2	4.1	7.4	55.6	51.5	4.1	7.4	55.3	51.7	3.6	6.6
Baton Rouge 2/	267.6	248.5	19.1	7.1	271.8	252.5	19.3	7.1	268.4	252.4	16.0	6.0
Houma 3/	74.9	69.6	5.3	7.0	75.7	70.1	5.6	7.4	76.0	70.5	5.5	7.3
Lafayette 4/	153.3	142.2	11.1	7.3	154.0	142.4	11.6	7.5	153.9	142.9	11.0	7.2
Lake Charles 5/	79.4	73.1	6.3	7.9	80.3	74.0	6.3	7.9	79.3	72.3	7.0	8.8
Monroe 6/	64.8	60.2	4.6	7.1	65.6	60.7	4.9	7.5	65.5	61.2	4.3	6.6
New Orleans 7/	577.9	538.1	39.8	6.9	586.2	544.9	41.3	7.0	583.0	546.5	36.5	6.3
Shreveport-Bossier City 8/	169.9	156.8	13.1	7.7	172.0	158.1	13.9	8.1	169.5	158.2	11.3	6.7

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette, St. Martin, Acadia, and St. Landry parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Ouachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, St. Charles, St. James, Plaquemines, and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier, Caddo, and Webster parishes.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index, sometimes called the "Cost of Living Index", is a monthly measure of the average change in prices in a fixed quantity of goods and services for the United States.

ALL URBAN CONSUMERS	INDEX	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR MONTH	% CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR
March 1994	147.2	+0.3	+2.5
March 1993	143.6	+0.3	+3.1

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, OTHER AREAS

AREA	PRELIMINARY MARCH 94 LABOR FORCE	EMPL	UNEMP	RATE	REVISED FEBRUARY 94 LABOR FORCE	EMPL	UNEMP	RATE
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	8,500	7,550	950	11.2	8,500	7,500	1,000	11.7
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	9,025	8,025	1,000	11.1	9,125	8,000	1,125	12.4
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	14,825	12,925	1,900	12.8	14,875	12,850	2,025	13.7
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	12,625	11,425	1,200	9.5	12,625	11,425	1,200	9.6
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	6,175	5,700	475	7.7	6,225	5,700	525	8.4
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	4,375	3,925	450	10.2	4,350	3,925	425	10.0
CAMERON (CAMERON)	3,675	3,375	300	8.1	3,675	3,375	300	8.4
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	5,700	5,025	675	11.7	5,600	4,900	700	12.5
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	5,525	5,075	450	8.3	5,550	5,075	475	8.3
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	8,625	7,425	1,200	14.0	8,750	7,425	1,325	15.1
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	10,075	9,200	875	8.8	9,925	9,025	900	9.1
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	4,050	3,225	825	20.6	3,925	3,050	875	22.0
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	7,950	7,325	625	7.7	7,950	7,275	675	8.3
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	12,350	11,275	1,075	8.6	12,300	11,200	1,100	9.0
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	10,875	9,675	1,200	11.0	10,650	9,375	1,275	12.0
COLFAX (GRANT)	6,975	6,100	875	12.5	7,125	6,150	975	13.6
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	28,775	26,400	2,375	8.2	28,875	26,425	2,450	8.5
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	13,350	11,775	1,575	11.9	13,400	11,825	1,575	11.8
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	6,475	6,025	450	6.8	6,450	6,000	450	7.0
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	11,800	10,700	1,100	9.4	11,675	10,550	1,125	9.6
JENA (LASALLE)	6,000	5,400	600	10.0	6,025	5,400	625	10.2
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	18,425	17,750	675	3.7	18,600	17,900	700	3.7
TALLULAH (MADISON)	5,400	4,650	750	13.7	5,125	4,400	725	14.2
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	13,925	12,225	1,700	12.3	14,125	12,150	1,975	13.9
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	16,325	15,125	1,200	7.4	16,175	14,925	1,250	7.8
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	10,050	9,000	1,050	10.5	9,975	8,875	1,100	11.0
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	3,800	3,425	375	9.9	3,775	3,400	375	10.2
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	9,050	7,875	1,175	13.0	8,900	7,650	1,250	14.1
MANY (SABINE)	8,975	8,400	575	6.3	8,975	8,350	625	6.9
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	3,925	3,675	250	6.5	3,925	3,650	275	7.0
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	23,925	21,425	2,500	10.5	23,900	21,325	2,575	10.8
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	39,475	35,175	4,300	10.9	39,400	35,075	4,325	11.0
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,500	3,125	375	10.4	3,325	2,925	400	11.8
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	11,300	10,575	725	6.4	11,325	10,525	800	7.0
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	22,050	20,225	1,825	8.3	21,925	20,100	1,825	8.3
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	16,850	14,950	1,900	11.3	16,825	15,000	1,825	10.8
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	16,425	14,875	1,550	9.4	16,350	14,775	1,575	9.6
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	5,775	4,350	1,425	24.6	5,700	4,125	1,575	27.5
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	3,675	3,300	375	9.9	3,700	3,325	375	10.2
WINNFIELD (WINN)	6,425	6,025	400	6.4	6,500	6,075	425	6.6

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESES.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES ARE COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1994*	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1993**	Net Change From Feb. 1994	Net Change From Mar. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	50.0	50.0	48.7	0	+ 1.3
GOODS PRODUCING	6.6	6.5	6.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
MINING	0.2	0.1	0.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
MANUFACTURING	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0
Durable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	43.4	43.5	42.3	- 0.1	+ 1.1
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.0	11.0	10.7	0	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade	2.0	2.0	1.8	0	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	9.0	9.0	8.9	0	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	14.5	14.5	13.9	0	+ 0.6
Health Services	6.6	6.6	6.5	0	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	13.2	13.3	13.1	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Federal	2.3	2.4	2.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
State and Local	10.9	10.9	10.7	0	+ 0.2
State	5.0	5.0	5.0	0	0
Local	5.9	5.9	5.7	0	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria MSA was estimated at 50,000 for the current month. This estimate was unchanged from last month, but was 1,300 above the year-ago level.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 6,600 for March, as a result of increased business in the mining of nonmetallic minerals. Compared to March, 1993, goods producing employment was up 200, with increases reported in both mining and construction.

Service producing employment was estimated at 43,400 for March. All segments remained stable, with the exception of federal government, due to temporary cutbacks. The services and trade segments were largely responsible for the over-the-year gains in the service producing sector.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1994*	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1993**	Net Change From Feb. 1994	Net Change From Mar. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	258.5	258.9	252.0	- 0.4	+ 6.5
GOODS PRODUCING	54.1	55.1	53.6	- 1.0	+ 0.5
MINING	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	30.4	31.6	29.6	- 1.2	+ 0.8
MANUFACTURING	22.9	22.7	23.2	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Durable Goods	5.9	5.7	6.0	+ 0.2	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	17.0	17.0	17.2	0	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	1.6	1.5	1.6	+ 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	1.3	1.4	1.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	12.2	12.2	12.2	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.9	1.9	2.0	0	- 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	204.4	203.8	198.4	+ 0.6	+ 6.0
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	11.6	11.5	11.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	57.2	56.9	55.3	+ 0.3	+ 1.9
Wholesale Trade	13.3	13.3	13.4	0	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	9.0	9.0	9.1	0	- 0.1
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	4.3	4.3	4.3	0	0
Retail Trade	43.9	43.6	41.9	+ 3.0	+ 2.0
General Merchandise	5.9	5.8	5.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	14.8	14.8	14.4	0	+ 0.4
Banking	4.5	4.4	4.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
SERVICES	63.5	63.4	61.1	+ 0.1	+ 2.4
GOVERNMENT	57.3	57.2	56.1	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Federal	2.4	2.5	2.3	- 0.1	+ 0.1
State and Local	54.9	54.7	53.8	+ 0.2	+ 1.1
State	30.6	30.4	30.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Local	24.3	24.3	23.6	0	+ 0.7

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment for the Baton Rouge MSA declined to 258,500 in March, but remained above the year-ago level of 252,000. The over-the-month losses were centered in the construction segment.

Goods producing employment at 54,100, was 1,000 below the February revised estimate, but 500 above March, 1993. Large project completions, in both general contractors nonresidential and heavy construction, were responsible for the over-the-month loss. However, construction was the largest contributor to the over-the-year employment gain for the goods producing sector. Manufacturing increased to 22,900, as a result of seasonal increases in both food and kindred products, and fabricated pipe production.

Service producing employment at 204,400 was 600 above the February estimate and 6,000 above the year-ago level. The industry reporting the greatest increase was trade, due to more business demands in retail building materials, eating and drinking places, and general merchandise stores. Seasonal increases in water transportation were responsible for the growth in transportation, communications, and public utilities. Services increased to 63,500 due to employment gains in health, hotels, and landscape services. Total government moved upward to 57,300. In government, the federal workforce decreased by 100, while the state nonfaculty staff rose 200. The services and trade industries recorded the strongest over-the-year gains in the service producing sector.

Average weekly earnings of the Baton Rouge MSA's 14,700 production workers in all manufacturing was $638.57 for March, a decrease of $46.46 from the February average. Compared to the prior year, weekly earnings were up $17.65. Average weekly hours, at 42.6, decreased by 1.2 hours in March, while average hourly earnings, at $14.99, decreased by $0.65 an hour. A shorter work week contributed to these changes.

The total civilian labor force for the Baton Rouge MSA registered at 267,600. This figure was comprised of 248,500 employed and 19,100 unemployed. The unemployment rate stood at 7.1 percent in March.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 1,934 individuals with new or renewal applications. A total of 1,831 referrals to current openings resulted in 113 placements during March.

HOUMA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1994*	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1993**	Net Change From Feb. 1994	Net Change From Mar. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	59.3	59.4	58.1	- 0.1	+ 1.2
GOODS PRODUCING	13.1	13.3	12.8	- 0.2	+ 0.3
MINING	4.9	5.1	5.3	- 0.2	- 0.4
CONSTRUCTION	3.0	3.0	2.7	0	+ 0.3
MANUFACTURING	5.2	5.2	4.8	0	+ 0.4
Durable Goods	3.9	3.8	3.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Nondurable Goods	1.3	1.4	1.4	- 0.1	- 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	46.2	46.1	45.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	5.7	5.6	5.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Water Transportation	3.3	3.2	3.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.4	14.5	14.7	- 0.1	- 0.3
Wholesale Trade	2.7	2.7	2.8	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	11.7	11.8	11.9	- 0.1	- 0.2
General Mdse. & App. & Acc.	2.2	2.2	2.3	0	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	11.6	11.5	11.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
GOVERNMENT	12.2	12.2	11.8	0	+ 0.4
Federal	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
State and Local	11.8	11.8	11.4	0	+ 0.4
State	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0
Local	8.5	8.5	8.1	0	+ 0.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Houma MSA moved down slightly to 59,300, a drop of 100 below February. The estimate for March was 1,200 higher than the year-ago figure.

Goods producing employment experienced a loss of 200. This was mainly due to the mining sector, where a firm was sold to a company outside the MSA. In manufacturing, durable goods rose by 100 while nondurable goods fell by 100, offsetting each other. Construction remained steady.

The service producing industry increased, with a minimal gain of 100 overall. Transportation, communications, and public utilities, and services were up by 100 each, while trade declined by 100.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1994*	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1993**	Net Change From Feb. 1994	Net Change From Mar. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	137.4	136.3	133.4	+ 1.1	+ 4.0
GOODS PRODUCING	34.1	33.9	32.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.7
MINING	11.5	11.6	10.9	- 0.1	+ 0.6
CONSTRUCTION	6.7	6.5	6.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
MANUFACTURING	15.9	15.8	15.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
Durable Goods	5.3	5.3	4.7	0	+ 0.6
Nondurable Goods	10.6	10.5	10.6	+ 0.1	0
SERVICE PRODUCING	103.3	102.4	101.0	+ 0.9	+ 2.3
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	8.1	8.1	7.7	0	+ 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	34.8	34.5	33.8	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Wholesale Trade	8.1	7.9	7.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Retail Trade	26.7	26.6	26.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
General Merchandise	3.6	3.5	3.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	5.7	5.6	5.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Banking	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	32.6	32.2	31.9	+ 0.4	+ 0.7
GOVERNMENT	22.1	22.0	22.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Federal	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
State and Local	20.8	20.7	20.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
State	6.4	6.3	6.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Local	14.4	14.4	14.4	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lafayette MSA was estimated at 137,400 in March, an increase of 1,100 from the February revised estimate.

Goods producing employment was estimated at 34,100, a gain of 200 from last month's figure. Mining dropped 100 due to losses in the oil and gas field services sector. Construction gained 200 with the increase occurring in the general building and special trade contractors sectors. Manufacturing was up 100 with the increase centered in the food and kindred products sector.

Service producing employment was estimated at 103,300, a gain of 900 from last month's level. Trade was up 300 due to more employment activity in both the wholesale and retail trade sectors. Finance, insurance, and real estate rose 100 with the increase occurring in the insurance and real estate industries. Services was up 400 with gains spread across the entire sector. Government rose 100 due to more employment at state educational institutions in the MSA.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1994*	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1993**	Net Change From Feb. 1994	Net Change From Mar. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	74.2	74.4	70.6	- 0.2	+ 3.6
GOODS PRODUCING	20.4	20.6	18.9	- 0.2	+ 1.5
MINING	1.3	1.4	1.3	- 0.1	0
CONSTRUCTION	8.0	8.2	6.7	- 0.2	+ 1.3
MANUFACTURING	11.1	11.0	10.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	1.7	1.6	1.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Nondurable Goods	9.4	9.4	9.6	0	- 0.2
Chemical & Petro Products	8.6	8.6	8.8	0	- 0.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	53.8	53.8	51.7	0	+ 2.1
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	4.5	4.4	4.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	16.0	16.2	15.7	- 0.2	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade	3.2	3.3	3.2	- 0.1	0
Retail Trade	12.8	12.9	12.5	- 0.1	+ 0.3
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.6	2.6	2.7	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	18.3	18.2	17.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.3
GOVERNMENT	12.4	12.4	12.0	0	+ 0.4
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
State and Local	11.9	11.9	11.4	0	+ 0.5
State	3.7	3.7	3.6	0	+ 0.1
Local	8.2	8.2	7.8	0	+ 0.4

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Lake Charles MSA decreased to 74,200 in March. This was a decline of 200 from February's revised estimate of 74,400. Growth of 3,600 was seen from one year ago.

Goods producing employment dropped by 200. There were declines of 100 in mining and 200 in construction. Manufacturing had a gain of 100 in the durable goods sector.

Service producing employment experienced no change overall. However, small seasonal gains and losses in transportation, communications, and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; and services were noted.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1994*	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1993**	Net Change From Feb. 1994	Net Change From Mar. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	62.7	62.6	61.6	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
GOODS PRODUCING	11.4	11.4	11.1	0	+ 0.3
MINING	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
MANUFACTURING	8.2	8.2	8.0	0	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	2.4	2.4	2.1	0	+ 0.3
Nondurable Goods	5.8	5.8	5.9	0	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	5.2	5.2	5.4	0	- 0.2
SERVICE PRODUCING	51.3	51.2	50.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	3.3	3.3	3.0	0	+ 0.3
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	15.2	15.2	14.8	0	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0
Retail Trade	12.0	12.0	11.6	0	+ 0.4
General Mdse. & App. & Acc.	2.9	2.9	2.7	0	+ 0.2
Eating & Drinking Places	4.0	3.9	3.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.3	4.3	4.2	0	+ 0.1
Banking	1.9	1.9	1.7	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	16.1	16.0	15.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
GOVERNMENT	12.4	12.4	12.6	0	- 0.2
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
State and Local	11.9	11.9	12.1	0	- 0.2
State	5.2	5.2	5.2	0	0
Local	6.7	6.7	6.9	0	- 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Monroe MSA was estimated at 62,700 during March. This was an increase of 100 from the February revised estimate of 62,600 and 1,100 above March, 1993.

Goods producing employment was unchanged over the month. However, the over-the-year increase of 300 was due to growth in construction and manufacturing employment.

Service producing employment was up 100 from last month, and significantly increased 800 from last year. The over-the-month change was centered in the services sector that rose by 100. All other segments remained stable over the month.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1994*	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1993**	Net Change From Feb. 1994	Net Change From Mar. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	573.1	572.5	561.5	+ 0.6	+11.6
GOODS PRODUCING	87.2	86.9	86.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
MINING	14.0	14.1	14.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
Oil & Gas Extraction	13.5	13.6	13.8	- 0.1	- 0.3
CONSTRUCTION	25.4	25.5	24.6	- 0.1	+ 0.8
MANUFACTURING	47.8	47.3	47.5	+ 0.5	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	22.5	22.0	22.6	+ 0.5	- 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	2.3	2.2	2.3	+ 0.1	0
Machinery Inc. Electrical	4.4	4.3	4.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Transportation Equipment	11.8	11.6	12.2	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Ship & Boatbuilding & Repairing	9.3	9.1	9.7	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Other Durable Goods	2.2	2.1	2.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	25.3	25.3	24.9	0	+ 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	5.4	5.4	5.3	0	+ 0.1
Apparel & Other Textile Products	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	- 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	7.2	7.2	7.1	0	+ 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.8	4.8	4.9	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	2.2	2.2	1.9	0	+ 0.3
SERVICE PRODUCING	485.9	485.6	475.1	+ 0.3	+10.8
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	43.0	43.2	43.2	- 0.2	- 0.2
Railroad Transportation	1.2	1.2	1.3	0	- 0.1
Trucking and Warehousing	8.5	8.4	8.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Water Transportation	12.0	12.2	12.7	- 0.2	- 0.7
Comm. & Public Util.	12.8	12.9	12.6	- 0.1	+ 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	139.3	138.4	138.9	+ 0.9	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	33.0	32.9	32.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	17.3	17.3	17.1	0	+ 0.2
Wholesale Trade-Nondurable Goods	15.7	15.6	15.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	106.3	105.5	106.2	+ 0.8	+ 0.1
General Merchandise	12.1	12.0	12.4	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Food Stores	20.9	20.5	21.0	+ 0.4	- 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	37.8	37.7	37.9	+ 0.1	- 0.1
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	29.8	29.9	29.2	- 0.1	+ 0.6
Banking	9.6	9.6	9.3	0	+ 0.3
SERVICES	171.2	171.7	163.9	- 0.5	+ 7.3
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	13.5	13.5	13.9	0	- 0.4
Health Services	48.0	48.4	45.8	- 0.4	+ 2.2
Educational Services	19.0	19.0	17.8	0	+ 1.2
GOVERNMENT	102.6	102.4	99.9	+ 0.2	+ 2.7
Federal	17.3	17.3	17.0	0	+ 0.3
State and Local	85.3	85.1	82.9	+ 0.2	+ 2.4
State	24.3	24.2	23.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Local	61.0	60.9	59.4	+ 0.1	+ 1.6

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the New Orleans MSA for March was estimated at 573,100. This was 600 more than the February revised estimate and 11,600 above March, 1993.

Goods producing employment, estimated at 87,200, was 300 higher than last month and 800 above March a year ago. Mining and construction were down 100 each for March. Manufacturing employment was up in the durable goods segment by 500 in March.

Service producing employment was estimated at 485,900 in March. This was 300 higher than February and 10,800 above March of last year. Transportation, communications, and public utilities employment was down mainly due to less activity at the ports. Trade was up, mainly in the retail sector. Finance, insurance, and real estate employment was down by 100 over the month. Decreases in the health services sector was mainly responsible for the drop in services employment. Government employment was up in the state and local government segments.

An estimated 34,300 production workers in the New Orleans MSA earned an average of $582.12 per week, up $15.06 from last month's revised level of $567.06. Average weekly hours were 44.0, up from 42.7 the previous month. Average hourly earnings were $13.23, down from $13.28 in February, but up from $12.88 in March of last year.

Estimated unemployment was 39,800 in March. The unemployment rate registered 6.9 percent.

SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1994*	Feb. 1994**	Mar. 1993**	Net Change From Feb. 1994	Net Change From Mar. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	155.2	154.9	151.5	+ 0.3	+ 3.7
GOODS PRODUCING	32.1	32.1	30.6	0	+ 1.5
MINING	3.0	3.0	3.0	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	8.8	8.8	7.6	0	+ 1.2
MANUFACTURING	20.3	20.3	20.0	0	+ 0.3
Durable Goods	14.2	14.2	14.1	0	+ 0.1
Lumber and Wood Products	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
Primary and Fabricated Metals	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	4.7	4.7	4.7	0	0
Other Durable Goods	5.4	5.4	5.4	0	0
Nondurable Goods	6.1	6.1	5.9	0	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Chemicals & Petroleum Products	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
SERVICE PRODUCING	123.1	122.8	120.9	+ 0.3	+ 2.2
TRANSP., COMM. & PUBLIC UTIL.	8.1	8.1	8.3	0	- 0.2
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	36.4	36.4	35.4	0	+ 1.0
Wholesale Trade	8.7	8.7	8.7	0	0
Retail Trade	27.7	27.7	26.7	0	+ 1.0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	6.8	6.7	6.8	+ 0.1	0
SERVICES	40.7	40.4	39.5	+ 0.3	+ 1.2
GOVERNMENT	31.1	31.2	30.9	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Federal	5.1	5.1	5.0	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	26.0	26.1	25.9	- 0.1	+ 0.1
State	8.5	8.5	8.4	0	+ 0.1
Local	17.5	17.6	17.5	- 0.1	0

SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Shreveport-Bossier City MSA was estimated at 155,200 during March. This was an increase of 300 from the February revised estimate of 154,900 and 3,700 above March, 1993.

Goods producing employment was unchanged over the month, but had an increase of 1,500 over the same period one year ago.

Service producing employment was up by 300 to an estimated 123,100. Finance, insurance, and real estate was up 100 for the month, while government was down 100. Services rose 300 due to employment growth in the business, health, and agricultural services segments.

An estimated 15,700 production workers in manufacturing in the Shreveport-Bossier City MSA had average weekly earnings of $617.14 in March, compared to $598.33 in February and $541.20 a year ago. Average weekly hours for March increased to 43.8 hours. This was higher than the average of 41.9 hours in February and the 40.6 average for March, 1993. The average hourly earnings dropped to $14.09 for March compared to $14.28 in February, but was higher compared to $13.33 a year ago.

The civilian labor force for the Shreveport-Bossier City Area, estimated at 169,900, included 156,800 employed and 13,100 unemployed, resulting in an unemployment rate of 7.7 percent.

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